branches are proposed to be set up in the States with locations thereof State-wise, with particular reference to Assam?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There are five Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in Assam. The names of the Banks and locations of their Headquarters are as follows:-

	Names of Regional Rural Banks	Headquarters
1.	Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank	Nalbari
2.	Lakhiri Gaonlia Bank	Golaghat
3.	Cachar Gramin Bank	Silchar
4.	Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank	Diphu
5.	Subansiri Gaonlia Bank	North Lakhimpur

(a) The State-wise number of RRBs is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c). Licences for opening branches are granted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Request for such licences from RRBs are considered on ongoing basis as per the extant procedures and Branch Licencing Policy.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that no proposal for opening of new branches has been received at their Head Office since 1994-95 to date from Assam.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of RRBs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16
2.	Assam	5
3.	Bihar	22
4.	Gujarat	9
5.	Haryana	4
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
8.	Karnataka	13
9.	Kerala	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	24
11.	Maharashtra	10
12.	Manipur	1
13.	Meghalaya	1
14.	Nagaland	1
15.	Orissa	9
16.	Punjab	5
17.	Rajasthan	14
18.	Tamil Nadu	3
19.	Tripura	1
20.	Uttar Pradesh	40
21.	West Bengal	9
22.	Mizoram	1
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
	All India Total	196

Impact of Budget Proposals on Exports

4517. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the impacts of the budget proposals on export in the light of the points raised by the export community;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any follow up action has been taken in regard thereto; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Union Budget for 1996-97 proposes a minimum alternate tax (MAT) on Zero Tax paying companies. The effective rate works out to 12 per cent of the book profit calculated under the Company's Act. While analysing the impact of this proposal on exports, it is observed that MAT will not be applicable on the following categories of exporters:-

(1) 100% EOU and EPZ Units during the 5 year period of exemption on U/S 10 of the I.T. Act.

(2) All partnership and Proprietorship concerns.

(3) All limited companies having their export profits less than 70% of their total profits.

Export of floriculture

4518. SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware the total size of the international market in floriculture is estimated at Rs. 60,000 crores;

(b) if so, the share of India in the export of floriculture at present; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of floriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). The world trade in cut flowers and potted plants measured in term of imports has been estimated at about US $ 6 billion during 1992 and India's exports of floriculture products have been for Rs. 14.90 crores during 1992-93. India's share in the world trade comes to 0.07%.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of floriculture products, inter-alia, include:-

(1) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as Provision of refrigerated/ insulated vans and setting up of pre cooling/cold storage units;

(2) Establishing five walk-in-type cold storages at airports (including Delhi) for export consignments awaiting clearance.

(3) Setting up of dedicated facility for handling export cargoes of perishable products including cut flowers and tissue culture plants at international airport of Delhi;

(4) Streamlining and simplification of plant quarantine procedures for expeditious clearance of cargo;

(5) Concessional customs duty on specified goods required for Green Houses;

(6) Making available the benefits of dutyfree imports under the 100% Export Oriented Units/Export Processing Zones Schemes to units engaged in floriculture and permitting sale of 50% of their production in the Domestic Tariff Area;

(7) Implementation of a UNDP assisted Project on Floriculture for enhancing production and exports of cut flowers. Some of the activities to be undertaken in this project include advising entrepreneurs on production of flowers, preparation of crop manuals, undertaking market surveys and providing market information; and

(8) Participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

Foreign Investment in Print Media

4519. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has decided to clear foreign direct investment proposals in print media;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that fear has been expressed in certain quarters that only foreign Multinationals are likely to be benefitted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation and also to protect the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

World Bank Loan for Rural Water Supply

4520. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned loan for rural water supply and environmental sanitation projects in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of mechanism evolved for the execution of the projects; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c). Do not arise.